

# MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

March 11, 2015

## Meeting Minutes

### Commissioners Present

Dr. Dan Blower, Chair  
Fred Bueter  
Tom O'Brien  
Sharon Conklin  
Walter Heinritzi  
Capt. Mike Krumm  
Charles Moser  
Michael Prince

### Commissioners Absent

Tim Yungfer, Vice Chair  
Dave Goller  
Robert Ramels

### Guests

Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety  
Michelle Zemla, Center for Truck Safety  
Chuck Simmons, Center for Truck Safety  
Kim Larviere, MDOT  
Jami Trudelle, MDOT  
Pat Muinch, FMCSA  
John Wallace, FMCSA  
Lt. Susan Fries, MSP CVED  
Don Wilcutt, Brenner Oil  
Julie Edwards

### OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum  
Janet Hengesbach  
Charlotte Kilvington  
Heidi Ruis  
Spencer Simmons

### ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Dr. Dan Blower, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made of those present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the November 5, 2014 minutes was made by Ms. Conklin and supported by Captain Krumm. The **MOTION** carries.

### STANDING REPORTS

#### A. Chair's Report – Dr. Dan Blower

There was a question regarding the size of large trucks and the safety of those trucks. A federal highway study is being done currently, to consider the ramifications of changing the weight laws to include large trucks. A report on this study will be published in the spring. When that report comes out, Dr. Blower will give a presentation to this body. There is not very good data on this topic as the distribution of weight during a crash is unknown.

### COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

#### Fred Bueter – Michigan Department of State (MDOS)

There is legislation pending discussing the latest federal requirement regarding CMV learner's permits. This requirement is to be in place by July 8, 2015. There is also a component which requires training, and certification testing for people that administer the knowledge and skills test. A background check component is also included.

Capt. Mike Krumm – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division

No report

Walt Heinritzi – Michigan Trucking Association

No report

Mike Prince – Office of Highway Safety Planning

The annual traffic safety summit will take place March 24-26 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Thus far, 600 people have signed up to attend.

Sharon Conklin – Private Motor Carriers

Drivers are reporting that when they renew tests at the Secretary of State branches and receive a low score, in past years, the clerk would reset the test. Currently the driver has to return to the branch and because of this, it is very time consuming for the drivers. Mr. Bueter will look into this and report back to Ms. Conklin.

Tom O'Brien – Michigan Community Colleges

He mentioned that he attended the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit last year and believes it is well worth the time to attend.

Chuck Moser – Transportation Commission

He appreciates working with this commission. At the next Transportation Commission meeting, Mr. Kirk Steudle, Director of MDOT, will be giving a presentation on the importance of the May 5 ballot initiative.

Chuck Simmons, Michigan Center for Truck Safety

He thanked the commission members for their dedication to the simulator program. It makes a huge difference for the students going through that program.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report ending February 28, 2015.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Lt. Susan Fries

Lt. Fries indicated that 1<sup>st</sup> qtr. information was just processed. There are no significant changes from the previous report. Enforcement is going well this quarter.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Mr. Al Newell

Mr. Newell reported the simulators are in the trailer at the MCTS building. Currently, 85 students have been through the training. The simulators are scheduled to be demonstrated at the State Fair, Frankenmuth, and in Escanaba. Also, the MDOT service center in Mt. Pleasant would like to demo them as well. Mr. Newell reported that in recent days, many calls have been coming in requesting information regarding the spring road limits as the ground is beginning to melt. The calls are mostly from smaller carriers inquiring as to their legal weight during these limits

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. TSF Grant Revision Request – Lt. Fries

Lt. Fries requested the commission to approve an increase STET enforcement to 13,600 hours up from 11,940 hours and to increase the additional hours per quarter per district for the high crash counties to 56. They are requesting use of the excess UCR fees to fund this request. The fees are housed in OHSP appropriation line and are to be used for MSP enforcement.

She also discussed new objectives they have developed including partnering with the National Drive to Zero campaign. This would add additional patrol overtime (OT) hours to the already established STET hours. It would be an increase of 1,668 officer OT hours and 272 sergeant's hours for weekends and holidays in conjunction with department initiatives such as Operation Care.

The next new objective is a campaign to educate citizens on the National Drive to Zero campaign. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) would work with the MSP Public Affairs section to spread the word out to the public.

They also want to partner with the MTSC using the simulator. They would have the simulator at scale locations, rest areas, and fairs on weekends, etc. to get people in to drive the simulator.

The last objective is new, updated technology. This program would gather the information and retrieve data from many sources including UCR fees, past inspections, accident reports, registration information, etc. and would place that information into one location which would be accessible by an officer once he enters the DOT information. This would give MSP a more in depth look at the truck as it is traveling on the highway. Other states are using this system and it works very well.

Following the presentation and discussions, Mr. Prince made a **MOTION** to approve the package of UCR fees and the additional monies requested for a total of \$300,022 as presented. Mr. O'Brien supported. Mr. Moser noted that he approves this project as technology needs to be constantly updated. Mr. Bueter requested a link to the technology portion. There is only one vendor that will support this technology for use by CVED.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bueter			
O'Brien			
Blower			
Conklin			
			Goller
Heinritzi			
		Krumm	
Moser			
Prince			
			Ramels
			Yungfer

The **MOTION** carries.

## PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

None

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

A.Update on Proposed Truck Safety Projects – Ms. Charlotte Kilvington

Ms. Kilvington updated the Commissioners on the proposed truck safety projects originally presented to them during the November meeting:

1. UMTRI has been tasked with determining which record management system would work the best. They will put together a summary for the commissioners with their findings.
2. The TACT project has been tabled for now.
3. UMTRI has been awarded the truck drivers education training project in Michigan.
4. A bid was received from Wayne State University for the seat belt and hand held device observation project.
5. The Road Team concept is tabled to 2016 as additional research is needed.
6. MTSC Strategic Plan update – Kathy will review this.

Captain Krumm made a **MOTION** to approve going forward with grant application stage of the Education project, Mr. Moser supported. Dr. Blower will abstain from voting on this project as he works in Truck Safety for UMTRI.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
		Blower	
			Goller
			Yungfer
			Ramels
Bueter			
O'Brien			
Conklin			
Heinritzi			
Krumm			
Prince			
Moser			

The **MOTION** carries.

Mr. Moser made a **MOTION** to go forward with the CMV hand held, seat belt observation study grant application stage, Mr. Bueter supported.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
			Goller
			Yunfger
			Ramels
Bueter			
O'Brien			
Blower			
Conklin			
Heinritzi			
Krumm			
Moser			
Prince			

The **MOTION** carries.

#### B. MTSC Strategic Plan – Kathy Farnum

It is time for the MTSC Strategic plan to be updated. The Research and Evaluation Committee has developed this document in past years. Ms. Farnum suggested that group could again work on the project or it could be put out for bid to have an independent agency look at the data and strategies. Dr. Blower reported there have been inquiries of putting this report out to have other groups look at the perspectives of this report and associated data.

Following discussions, it was determined that the Commissioners would review an RFP before sending it out for bid following the May meeting.

#### C. MCDD Status Update – Mr. O'Brien/Mr. Heinritzi

Mr. O'Brien reported that the commission was tasked with looking at the skid pad and reviewing the current equipment. Mr. O'Brien and a group of commissioners visited the site in December. While at the site, they looked at the property and the equipment being stored/used at the property. It was determined that the tractor trailer, classroom environment, technology, and skid pad all need upgrading along with any ongoing maintenance at the facility.

Mr. Heinritzi thanked everyone for visiting the skid pad operations. They were prepared to work on upgrading the equipment but Mr. Heinritzi received a communication from the Eaton Corp indicating their time at their property would be terminated as of June 30. It was extended until July 31. He is now looking at options for another location for the skid pad. The Commissioners all agreed that this is very worthwhile training and should continue in some capacity. Following discussions, Mr. O'Brien volunteered to chair a group which will look at different ideas including future development of a new skid pad and will report back during the May meeting. Meanwhile, Dr. Blower suggested gathering as much

information as possible to assure the program goes forward. He requested that Mr. Heinritzi speak to his contacts in the trucking industry regarding any leads or other information that can be useful.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.